



Arizona Department of Agriculture

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TO: Pesticide Applicators and Licensed Pest Control Advisors

FROM: Jack Peterson, Associate Director
Environmental Services Division

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Peterson".

SUBJECT: Pesticide Management Area / Pesticide Monitoring Program

Although the housing boom has slowed, Arizona continues to experience people relocating into areas that were previously in agricultural production. Due to this constantly changing agricultural urban interface, we are no longer able to pinpoint and predict areas where complaints may be generated. We are not sending out notification to applicators and PCAs as no change has occurred in the past several areas and we have no designated pesticide management areas. We are instead publishing this Pesticide Management Area/pesticide monitoring information on the web.

Pesticide Management Areas (PMA's): (ATTACHMENT 1) There are currently no designated Pesticide Management Areas, as no one area has received repetitive complaints. If we all continue to do our part, no designated PMA's will be required. However, please be aware if the Director does declare a PMA, this will require department notification before applying pesticides in the PMA of at least 24 hours. The Department will in most cases send out an inspector to monitor and oversee applications within the PMA. If a PMA is established during the year, we will notify you.

Sensitive Areas: Heavily populated areas, areas near schools, childcare centers, medical care facilities, hospitals, and nearby residential areas may be considered "sensitive areas". We are asking that you be proactive in trying to pinpoint and predict possible problem areas where complaints may be generated. Notifying concerned individuals in your area that you know or who have contacted you for notification of pesticide applications in "sensitive areas" is voluntary. However, you are strongly encouraged to notify us of applications in "sensitive areas". Pre-notification and informing people will help reduce complaints and concerns.

Buffer Zones: (ATTACHMENT 2a) Arizona has required buffer zones when applications of odoriferous, highly toxic pesticides or paraquat are near schools, day care centers, or health care institutions. Bear in mind that many churches operate day care centers. We recommend that you keep a log of contacts for your own protection when contacting individuals from these entities.

Requesting Pesticide Application Monitors / ADA Monitor's Schedule

From June 30 through November 30, you may call 1-800-423-8876, 24 hours a day, seven days a week and leave a message. Pesticide inspectors who will do the monitoring will review these messages at least twice daily. (This same process has been followed in years past). Certain information about the application must be given when you call. To make this easier ATTACHMENT 3 is a copy of our monitor request form. Please use this form as a reference. Faxed copies or requests by phone directly to your local ADA office will be accepted if received between 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).

If you are applying pesticides in areas where prior complaints have been generated or in other "sensitive areas"; we suggest that you consider contacting one of our inspectors and request they monitor and oversee your application. We understand that it may be difficult to provide monitor requests 24 hours in advance. However, the reality is that there has to be a tremendous level of effort, care, and caution involved in using agricultural pesticides, particularly in sensitive areas. (ATTACHMENT 4)

Monitoring personnel do have other scheduled monitors and other appointments to keep. They will wait no more than 1 hour past the designated time before moving on. They all have cell phones. Get acquainted with inspectors in your area. Please note their cell phone numbers so if your plans have to be changed you can notify them as soon as possible. Due to budget and personnel constraints, not all monitor requests may be possible.

PCA's are crucial in reducing complaints. Careful selection of the pesticide recommended is essential. Attention to buffer zone requirements, timely submission of 1080's and careful consideration of environmental factors are key elements in reducing complaints and maintaining a positive image to the public. Your timely submission of orders to dealers and applicators allows the Department to receive adequate notice to monitor. Applicators have the final responsibility for the job, but your prompt communication prior to the application has a tremendous impact on the final outcome.

We need everyone's proactive help within the communities you work to make people feel they are safe and secure in the knowledge that Arizona applicators show caution, care, and concern for their well being. If homeowners have questions, we encourage them to seek information from the applicator community or from the department. Fear of the unknown is real and having knowledge of what is occurring helps calm those fears. We need your support and cooperation to do this and to make this an uneventful pesticide monitoring season.

Thank you again for your cooperation and support. Please read the attachments, print them out, and file them for future reference or make certain to keep this web location bookmarked for future reference. For further clarification on any of these requirements please contact one of the department's offices, or you may contact me at 602-542-3575.